Clinical Infectious Diseases Society (CIDS)

ID CATALYST RESEARCH GRANT

OFFICIAL POLICY & OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

1. Program Overview & Scope

The ID Catalyst Research Grant, awarded by the Clinical Infectious Diseases Society (CIDS), is a catalyst initiative to empower early-career infectious diseases researchers in India. The program funds high-utility, structured projects that address key areas including antimicrobial resistance, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and tropical infections.

To optimize the utilization of the grant quantum, CIDS prioritizes:

- Clinical, operational, and epidemiological research projects.
- Digital health, antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) data science models, and diagnostic validation studies.
- High-impact translational concepts that leverage existing institutional infrastructure.
- Clinical research in infectious diseases integrating basic science.
- Discovery/innovative research/ validation of potential solutions to the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of infectious diseases.
- Patient or community engagement relevant to infectious diseases research

2. Financial Provisions & Allocation

- **Quantum & Tenure:** Three to four fellowships will be awarded annually. Each fellow will receive a non-renewable grant of INR 2-5 Lakhs for a maximum duration of 18 months.
- **Permissible Expenses:** Funds may be used for patient diagnostics, specialized lab consumables, third-party assays, software licenses.
- **Budgetary Restrictions:** Funds **shall not** be used for major capital equipment procurement, international or national conference travel, research personnel salaries, or to supplement the core salary of the PI or Co-Investigators.

3. Eligibility & Mandated Institutional Continuity

- **Principal Investigator (PI):** Must be a life/annual member of CIDS in good standing. The PI must be a current Infectious Diseases trainee (DM/DrNB/FNB Fellow) or an early-career ID specialist within three (3) years of completing their super-specialty training, operating out of a recognized Indian teaching hospital or medical institution.
- **Mandatory Institutional oversight:** To guarantee project continuity, applications **must** co-opt at least one permanent faculty member (Assistant Professor or above) from the host institution as a supervisor. The application must be forwarded through the

HOD and the Institution Head with an undertaking that the Institution will support the applicant for execution of the project.

- **Institutional Continuity Clause:** If the PI completes their training program, relocates, or exits the host institution prior to final project closure, the PI remains responsible for the scientific report and publication, while the institutional supervisor facilitates the administrative and financial closure of the project.

4. Grant Administration

- **Institutional Fund Routing:** Funds will be transferred directly to the designated institutional account (Dean/Director/Registrar) earmarked specifically for the CIDS awardee. Funds will be released in 2 instalments, in 60/40 ratio, the second being after receipt and review of the interim report.
- **Procurement Protocol:** All purchase requests must follow the host institution's purchase system, routed through the Head of the Department (HOD)
- **Milestone Accounting:** A mid-term utilization certificate and financial statement must be submitted to CIDS exactly 9 months from the date of primary fund disbursal. A final Statement of Expenditure (SoE) must be submitted using the official CIDS template within 6 months of project closing. Unutilized funds will be returned to CIDS.

5. Final Reporting, Dissemination, and Extramural Transition

- **Interim Presentation:** An interim presentation at the immediate CIDSCON
- **Report submission:** Upon completion of the study, the scientific report shall be submitted to the CIDS within a period of three months
- **Academic Presentations:** Results must be submitted as a formal scientific abstract for peer-reviewed presentation at CIDSCON post-completion.
- **Peer-Reviewed Publication:** Study outcomes must be submitted for publication in Scopus-indexed or PubMed-indexed scientific journals within 6 months of project completion. All publications and presentations must explicitly acknowledge financial support via the "ID Catalyst Research Grant" from Clinical Infectious Diseases India.
- **Extramural Pipeline:** To bridge the gap to sustainable long-term research, CIDS will provide a mandatory Grant-Writing Masterclass to all active fellows. The awardees are expected, where feasible, to submit a proposal for extramural funding (e.g., to ICMR, DBT, or BIRAC) within one year of project completion.

6. Recognition and incentives: CIDS may consider a modest incentive for fellows who complete the project and deliverables on time – for example, complimentary CIDSCON registration and/or recognition at CIDSCON.

7. Program Timelines

- **Call for Proposals Open:** 5 October 2026

- **Application Submission Deadline:** 30 November 2026, 17:00 IST
- **Peer Review Window:** December 2026 – February 2027
- **Announcement of Awards:** Second Week of February 2027
- **Mandated Project Commencement Deadline:** Post-IEC approval, but no later than 30 July 2027

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